

Challenge your supplier by suggesting new products or ways they could help you improve your operations so less waste is created.

Checking out a new product? Will the company selling the new product work with your equipment vendors and others to make sure the new product works efficiently in your process?

Be Bold! Commit your supplier to working with you. Use the examples given to involve your suppliers in reducing your waste and emissions and improving your efficiency.

Call the Michigan Great Printers Project at 800-662-9278 or visit our website at <http://www.michigan.gov/deq> for more information.

“IS IT GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?”

General Questions for Your Supplier:

- Can you help me reduce the number of products used for printing and cleanup?
- Can you help me improve my inventory management system?
- Can your products be replenished for reuse or easily recycled in-house?
- Can your products be shipped with less packaging?

For any Product Sample:

- Is there a material safety data sheet available?
- Are any chemicals in the product reportable to government agencies?
- What health and safety information does the supplier have on the chemicals in the product that are not reportable?
- What will be needed to manage the waste in a sound environmental manner? Will it be classified as a hazardous waste?
- Will the supplier take unused samples back?
- Will the supplier work with you in providing safety training for employees to assure the proper use of each new product?

For Containers:

- Can the empty containers or packaging be returned to the supplier?
- Are the containers made with some percentage of recycled content?
- Can the containers be easily recycled? If they are plastic, are markets available for that kind of plastic in your area?
- Can the chemicals be bought in bulk or concentrated form to reduce the number of empty containers?

For Equipment:

- What are its energy requirements? Is there a more energy efficient model?
- Is it easily maintained and used so that extra waste is not produced?
- Will the supplier help you train employees to use the new equipment correctly?

For Coatings:

- What wastes and emissions are created in applying the coating?
- Will the coating make recycling of the paper products easy or difficult?
- What training will employees need for worker safety and health?
- What will be required for cleanup after the coating? Will this be a hazardous waste?

For Paper:

- Can the paper be recycled easily?
- Will unbleached paper work?
- What percentage of the paper content is post-consumer? Can paper with a higher percentage of post-consumer content be obtained?
- For bleached paper, how is it bleached? Is the paper company meeting all of its environmental requirements?
- Can a lighter weight paper still achieve the same effect for the printed product?

For more information regarding the *Michigan Great Printers Project* or other pollution prevention programs, please visit the website: <http://www.michigan.gov/deq>

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